(c) if so, what steps will be taken by South Central Railways to meet this demand; and

(d) by when Ratnachal Express will have more bogies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) An analysis of the utilisation figures of Train No. 2717/2718 Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Ratnachal Express has revealed that the sitting capacity in both 2nd & Air Conditioned (AC) classes in adequate to meet the present level of traffic demand.

Fire-Proof Coaches

1130. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways has introduced fire proof coaches;

(b) if so, the trains where they are being/will be provided; and

(c) the target for making all the coaches fire-proof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) All coaches make use of material which are fire retardant to the extent feasible. One prototype General Second Class Coach has been manufactured in Rail Coach Factory (RCF) and three coaches have been manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) by using improved fire retardant material as a trial measure. These coaches are under service trial. Based on the feedback from Railways and standardization of fire retardant material by Research, Design and Standards Organizations (RDSO), other coaches will be manufactured using latest fire retardant material.

Rail Tracks

†1131. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail tracks in our country are as per the specifications of modern latest engine manufactured; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.